

15 March 1989

NOTE FOR: C/Counternarcotics Center

John Helgerson requests that you draft a response to Congressman Shuster for the DCI's signature. It would also be helpful if you would prepare a note from Mr. Helgerson to the DCI briefly explaining the nature of Congressman Shuster's interest. If you will return the package to me, I will get it to the DCI.

Thanks,



EA/DDI

Attachment:

Shuster's request

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SECTION

Central Intelligence Agency

OCA FILE

HRSCI



Washington, D.C. 20505

29 MAR 1989

OCA 1038-89

The Honorable Bud Shuster
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Evaluation
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Shuster:

I read your letter of March 7, 1989 with interest and would like to take this opportunity to comment on several of the points you raise.

I concurred with the Department of Defense request to delay the submission of the assessment report, called for under HR 4387, to 1 June 1989, because I believe that a significantly more comprehensive and valuable document can be produced at the later time. Any interpretation of that request as indicative of lagging interest or effort is both incorrect and regrettable. There is much that is being introduced into the counternarcotics equation, especially on the Department of Defense side, with new organizations; new relationships; and new procedures. To fail to report on these new aspects because of time pressures, would have been unfortunate, and perhaps, misleading to the Congress. Meanwhile, I believe that much useful and relevant information, of the very kind being sought in the assessment report on past counternarcotics activities, is contained in the 1990/91 Congressional Budget Request already submitted.

With regard to the Intelligence Community role in the counternarcotics effort, the planning and organizational activity appropriate and necessary for the launching of our new Counternarcotics Center has been proceeding with a high priority and my personal attention. The leadership for the Center has been identified, the key assignments are being made

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and the myriad of logistics and administrative arrangements are on track. The Center will have intelligence collection and analytical dimensions; moreover, we expect it to host senior and working-level personnel from both the Intelligence Community and relevant law enforcement agencies.

The opening of the Center will mark the first time this country has had anything resembling an interagency strategic intelligence center to support the supply reduction dimensions of the national counternarcotics strategy. I also believe that the Center will develop new and useful products and services to support U.S. law enforcement programs overseas and U.S. interdiction programs assigned to the Customs Service and the Coast Guard and now to be supported by new Department of Defense structures.

In closing, let me reassure you of my personal commitment to seeing the Counternarcotics Center become an effective vehicle for support to the counternarcotics community, including especially the National Drug Control Policy Office. I have met with Director Bennett to convey my views in this regard and look forward to our working together on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

for /s/ Richard J. Kerr

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

cc: William J. Bennett

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ORIG: DD/HA/OCA, [] (24 March 89)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Response to Representative Shuster

FROM:

Howard P. Hart
Special Assistant to the DCI
for Counternarcotics

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

22 MAR 1989

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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3. Deputy Director for
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23 MAR 1989

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7D43 OHB

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8.

9. Director of Central
Intelligence
7D60 OHB

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Response to Representative Shuster

FROM:

Acting Director of Congressional
Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

OCA 1038-89 4 / 1

DATE

27 MAR 1989

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and
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Central Intelligence

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7. Director of Central
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